

# Somahai language

**Momuna** (Momina), also known as **Somahai** (Somage, Sumohai), is a Papuan language spoken in the highlands of Papua province, Indonesia.

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## Varieties

Reimer notes two dialects, one on the Balim River and one on the Rekai. One of the differences is that when /u/ follows an /u/ or /o/ in the Balim dialect, it is /i/ in the Rekai dialect. Thus the ethnonym 'Momuna' is pronounced 'Momina' in Rekai dialect.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Classification

The Somahai pronouns, singular \*na, \*ka, \*mo, are typical of Trans–New Guinea languages. They were placed in the Central and South New Guinea branch of that family by Wurm. Ross could not locate enough evidence to classify them. Usher found them to be closest to the Mek languages, in the Central West New Guinea, which partially overlaps with Wurm's C&SNG.

## References

1. Momuna (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/mqf/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)

Momina (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/mmb/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)

2. Momuna–Mek, New Guinea World (<https://sites.google.com/site/newguineaworld/families/trans-new-guinea/central-west-new-guinea/momuna-mek>)

3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Somahai" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/soma1242>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

4. Momuna, New Guinea World (<https://sites.google.com/site/newguineaworld/families/trans-new-guinea/central-west-new-guinea/momuna-mek/momuna>)

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Ross, Malcolm (2005). "Pronouns as a preliminary diagnostic for grouping Papuan languages". In Andrew Pawley; Robert Attenborough; Robin Hide; Jack Golson (eds.). *Papuan pasts:*

Momuna	
Somahai	
Native to	Indonesia
Region	Papua province: <div></div> western Asmat Regency and Yahukimo Regency
Native speakers	2,200 <span> </span> (1998–2000) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	<div>Trans–New Guinea <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Central West New Guinea<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Momuna–Mek<sup>[2]</sup><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Momuna</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Dialects	Momuna <div>Momina</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Either: <div>mqf – Momuna</div> <div>mmb – Momina</div>
Glottolog	soma1242 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/soma1242">http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/soma1242</a> ) <sup>[3]</sup>

*cultural, linguistic and biological histories of Papuan-speaking peoples*. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics. pp. 15–66. ISBN 0858835622. OCLC 67292782 (<https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/67292782>).

## External links

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- Timothy Usher, New Guinea World, Proto–Momuna–Mek (<https://sites.google.com/site/newguineaworld/families/trans-new-guinea/central-west-new-guinea/momuna-mek>)
  - (ibid.) Momuna (<https://sites.google.com/site/newguineaworld/families/trans-new-guinea/central-west-new-guinea/momuna-mek/momuna>)
  - Somahai languages database at TransNewGuinea.org (<http://transnewguinea.org/family/somahai>)
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